

NTTA KICKS OFF “STEER IT & CLEAR IT” SAFETY CAMPAIGN

Campaign Reminds Drivers What to Do After a Minor Traffic Accident

PLANO, TX – May 3, 2016 – The North Texas Tollway Authority is kicking off its “Steer It and Clear It” campaign this week in an effort to reduce traffic congestion and improve safety by reminding drivers what to do when they are involved in a minor traffic accident.

Many drivers are unaware that Texas law requires them to remove their vehicle(s) from the roadway if there are no serious injuries and the vehicle(s) can be driven normally. According to [Texas Transportation Code Chapter 550.022](#), if a driver is involved in a motor vehicle crash on the “main lane, ramp, shoulder, median, or adjacent area of a freeway in a metropolitan area” with no apparent serious personal injury, the driver of each vehicle involved is required to remove their vehicle from the roadway.

“Every 10 minutes a lane of traffic is blocked because of an accident means it can take 40 minutes for traffic to return to normal,” said Eric Hemphill, NTTA director of system and incident management. “Moving damaged vehicles off the roadway not only can reduce traffic congestion, but also improve safety conditions for all motorists.”

Hemphill adds that, for every one minute a lane is blocked, the likelihood of a secondary crash increases 2.8 percent for drivers approaching the original accident.

Safety on NTTA’s roads is always a top priority. Drivers who are involved in an accident should follow these five steps:

1. **Assess It:** Check for injuries. If anyone is injured, call 911 immediately. Stay calm and be ready to provide the best description of the accident scene possible, including your location, how many vehicles are involved, how many people are injured and what types of injuries they have.
2. **Avoid It:** If you are unable to move your vehicle, you may be safer in your car with the seat belt fastened. If you must exit the vehicle, exit on the side farthest from traffic and stay out of traffic.
3. **Steer It and Clear It:** If there are no serious injuries and the vehicles can be driven, move them *off the road* to the nearest safe location; it’s the law.
4. **Notify It:** Once you have safely moved your vehicle from the road, call 911 to report the incident. Give them your exact location and follow the dispatcher’s instructions.
5. **Report It:** Unless otherwise directed by the 911 dispatcher, exchange contact, vehicle and insurance information with the other driver (free Motorist Information Exchange Cards are available at all [NTTA TollTag stores](#)). Report the incident as instructed by law enforcement and as required by your insurance provider.

Learn more about how NTTA is working to [keep drivers safe](#). Be sure to also follow NTTA on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for more safety information and up-to-date traffic conditions.

About the NTTA

The North Texas Tollway Authority, a political subdivision of the state of Texas, is authorized to acquire, construct, maintain, repair and operate turnpike projects in the north Texas region. The [nine-member board](#) is comprised of Chairman Kenneth Barr; Vice Chairman Bill Moore; and Directors William D. Elliott, Matrice Ellis-Kirk, Mojoy Haddad, John Mahalik, Michael Nowels, George “Tex” Quesada and Jane Willard.

NTTA serves Collin, Dallas, Denton and Tarrant counties and owns and operates the Dallas North Tollway, President George Bush Turnpike, Sam Rayburn Tollway, Addison Airport Toll Tunnel, Lewisville Lake Toll Bridge, Mountain Creek Lake Bridge and Chisholm Trail Parkway. NTTA is able to raise capital for construction projects through the issuance of turnpike revenue bonds. NTTA toll projects are not a part of the state highway system and receive no direct tax funding. Tolls are collected to repay debt and to operate and maintain the roadways.

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